Attorney Docket No.: OPT-03-001 Express Mail Label No.: EQ 381330294 US

In the Abstract:

Please delete the existing Abstract and replace it with the following new Abstract.

Optimization Expert System Abstract of the Invention

An expert system having a data storage device and a processor. The data storage device stores models having attributes, objectives having rules for evaluating the models, and strategies having rules for modifying the attributes. The processor evaluates a selected model in accordance with a selected objective and having the variable attribute set in accordance with a selected strategy to determine a characteristic value associated with the selected model and the variable attribute setting. The processor also stores information associated with improved results in the data storage device.